Docket No.: 4978-0101PUS1

(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Kazuo NISHIKAWA et al.

Application No.: 10/510,210 Confirmation No.: 4408

Filed: November 17, 2006 Art Unit: 1657

For: METHOD OF ESTIMATING ELIMINATION

OF MICROOGANISMS AND APPARATUS FOR ESTIMATING ELIMINATION OF

MICROORGANISMS

Examiner: V. Afremova

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 February 9, 2009

Madam:

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.